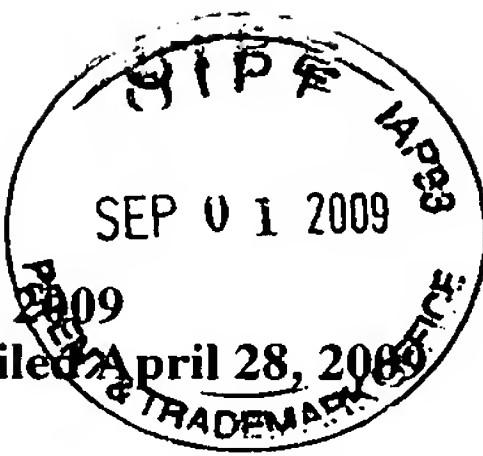


Application No. 10/581,536

Amendment dated August 28, 2009

Response to Office Action mailed April 28, 2009



This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A seat folding mechanism comprising:

front and rear stays that are L-shaped, inverted L-shaped or transverse T-shaped, rotatably supported on side frames around longitudinal shafts; and

a seat plate supported by cross bars of the front and rear stays, with tip ends of said cross bars and the seat plate being connected rotatably freely around a first axis running in front and rear directions and around a second axis, which is parallel to one of said longitudinal shafts, ~~in positions closer to a side edge, which is farther from the side frames of the seat plate~~ in positions closer to one side edge of the seat plate, wherein the one side edge is farther from the side frame with respect to an other side of the seat plate.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side frames are located at left and right sides of a seat, and the seat plate is split into left and right parts, wherein the left and right parts of the seat plate are mounted on respective sides of the side frames.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the longitudinal shaft of the stays is tilted forward and are rotatably supported on the side frames.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tip ends of the cross bars and the seat plate are connected by a synchronous rotating mechanism which connects the rotating angle around the first axis running in the front and rear directions and the rotating angle around the second axis parallel to one of the longitudinal shafts at a relationship of 1:1.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a backrest, wherein the backrest is mounted on the rear stays.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a backrest, wherein the backrest is mounted on either one of the left and right rear stays.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a footrest which is supported for moving back and forth, wherein the footrest is connected to a front end of a joining rod which extends beneath the seat from a lower end of the front stays via a link or a long hole extending in left and right directions.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A seat folding mechanism as claimed in claim 7, wherein the footrest comprises a knee pushing plate extending upward from a front edge portion of the footrest.

Claims 9-12 (Canceled).